



Havenwood Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

August 24, 2025



Jesus and the Bent-Over Woman, Barbara Schwarz

The Service of the Lord's Day

Order of Worship

**Please stand if you are able.
Congregation to recite bolded passages.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elaine DePoy

PRELUDE

"Come Away to the Skies"
by Tracey Craig McKibben

Valerie Adelung

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace McDowell

Come, all who feel bent over by life, by weariness, worry, or a weight you can't name.

We come to this place to be seen, to be called by name, and to be made whole.

God doesn't wait for the perfect time, because Jesus heals on the Sabbath, and love cannot be scheduled.

We come with open hearts, trusting in the One who sets us free. Let us worship God.

*HYMN # 738

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Grace McDowell

None of us has made it through life unbent. We carry things we don't always talk about: shame, sorrow, old regrets, and unseen grief. But here in this space, we are free to lay it down. Let us bring our whole selves to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Grace McDowell

God, who sees, we admit that we often live hunched over, burdened by things we cannot name, bound by fear, guilt, or the pressure to keep going. We ignore our need for healing. We fail to see the pain in others. We cling to systems that protect comfort instead of offering compassion. But you stop. You see. You speak. And you set us free. Loosen what holds us back. Restore what is withered within us. And help us stand tall in your grace. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Grace McDowell

Friends, hear this good news: Jesus does not wait for the perfect moment to act. He sees us as we are and sets us free. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS # 701

“Lord, Prepare Me”

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tired and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Grace McDowell

May the Peace of Christ be with you.
and also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Grace McDowell

Spirit of God, come close. Open our ears to your Word and our hearts to the voices we'll hear today. Help us notice what's heavy in our own lives, and see ourselves in the woman who stood up straight. Stir something in us as we listen for your call. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:10-17

Grace McDowell

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Breathe" by Marie Barnett

Valerie Adelung

SERMON

“What Bends Us Over?”

Jenn DiFrancesco

*HYMN # 792

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

Jenn DiFrancesco

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Elaine DePoy

When Jesus saw the woman in the synagogue, he didn’t look away. He responded with healing. Our gifts are a response to God’s compassion. Let us give with that same spirit, so others might know they are seen and loved, too

During this time of offering, you may place your gift in the plate as you leave this morning, or give in any of the other ways listed in your bulletin's announcement page.

OFFERTORY

“Jesus Loves Me” by JB Taylor

Valerie Adelung

***DOXOLOGY # 710**

“We Lift Our Voices”

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;
Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Elaine DePoy

Loving God, take these gifts and use them for healing, for lifting up the weary, for comforting the grieving, and for reminding the bent-over world that love is still moving among us. Amen.

***HYMN # 821**

“My Life Flows On”

***BENEDICTION**

Jenn DiFrancesco

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
by Brad Nix

Valerie Adelung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgists: Elaine DePoy, Grace McDowell

Thank you to our ushers: Susan Bond, Wende Smith

HAVENWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco, Supply Pastor

The Rev. Cathy Bashore, Parish Associate

Susan Riegger, Preschool Director

Valerie Adelung, Music Director

Jake Miller, Worship Technology Coordinator

Julia Wells, Administrator

Lloyd Martin, Facilities Manager

SESSION

Sharon Huber-Plano – Clerk of Session

Joyce Beall – Personnel Committee

Judy Binkley – Worship Committee

Wende Smith – Preschool Committee

Chip Hurley – Stewardship Committee

Donna Marshall – Scouts Liaison

Samuel Gatua Muiruri – Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Support

DEACONS

Susan Bond

Elaine DePoy

Cynthia Smith

Barbara Reade

Jane Shaffer

Judy Yeager



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738 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
 3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray

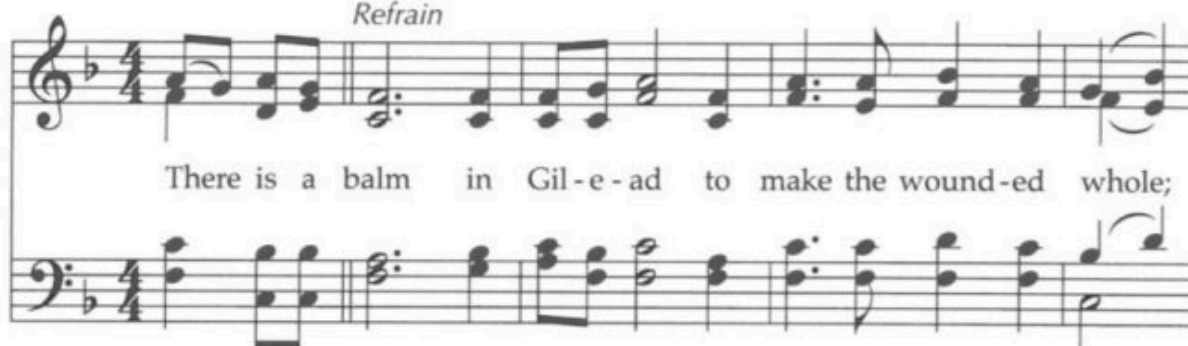
in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
 by some clear, win - ning word of love;
 in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
 far down the fu - ture's broad - ening way;

tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the
 teach me the way - ward feet to stay, and
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in
 in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with

strain of toil, the fret of care.
 guide them in the home - ward way.
 trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

In honestly admitting the limits of human ability, this prayerful hymn does not seek a sense of God's presence for self-comfort but for strength and companionship in pursuing the tasks that God sets before us. The author specifically chose this tune to accompany his words.

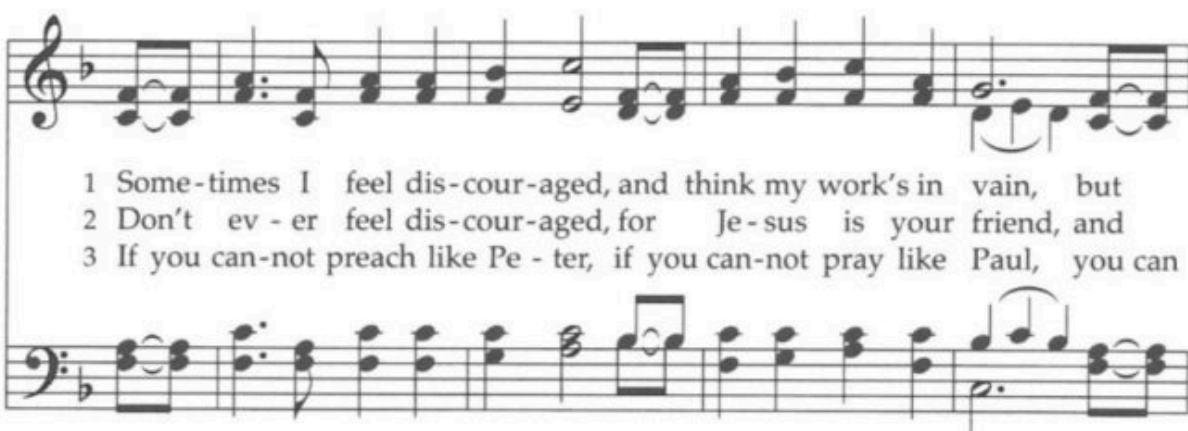
There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

Refrain


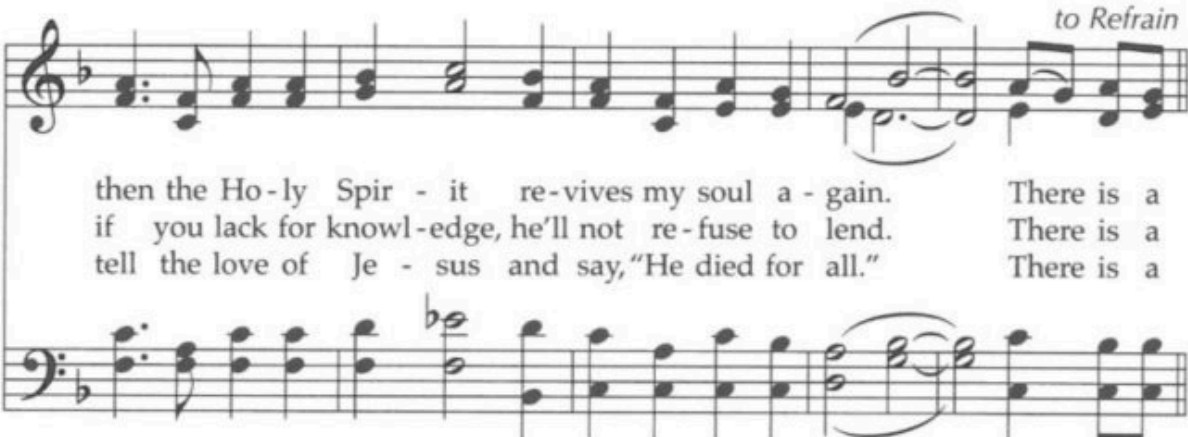
There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

Fine


there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
 2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

to Refrain


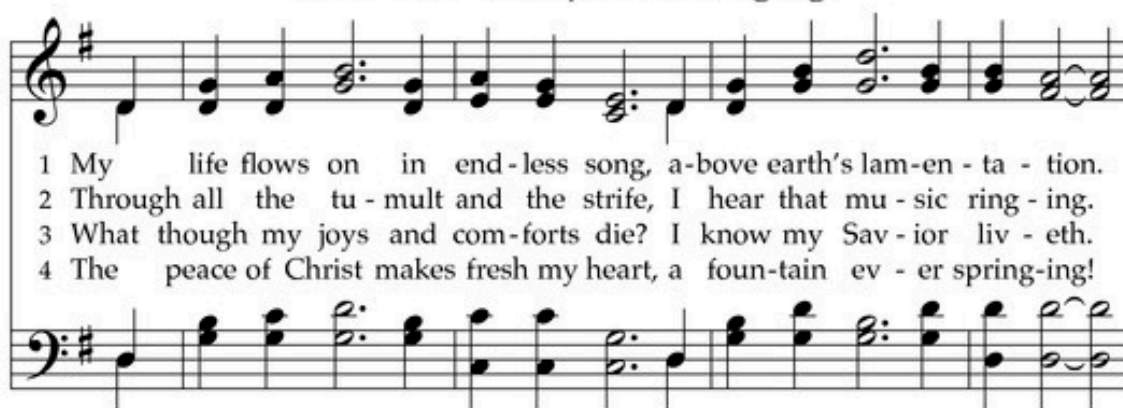
then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

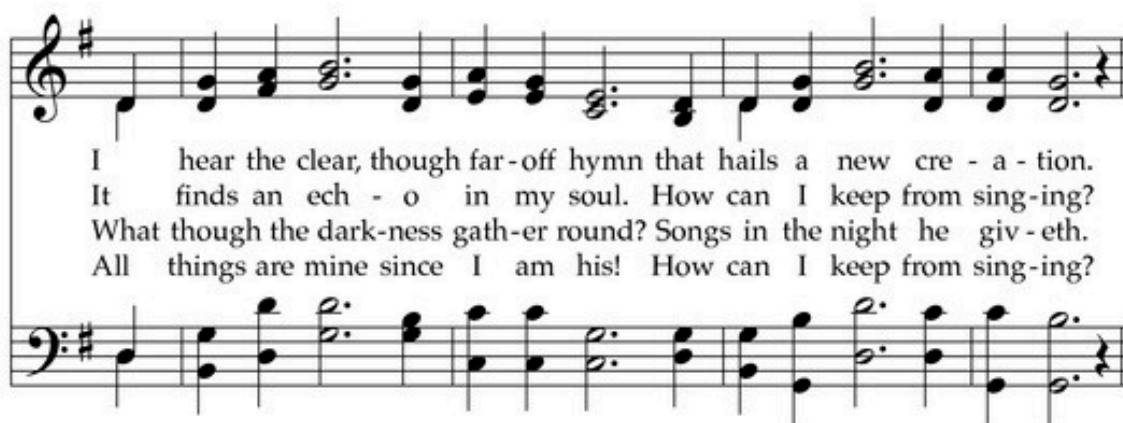
821

My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?

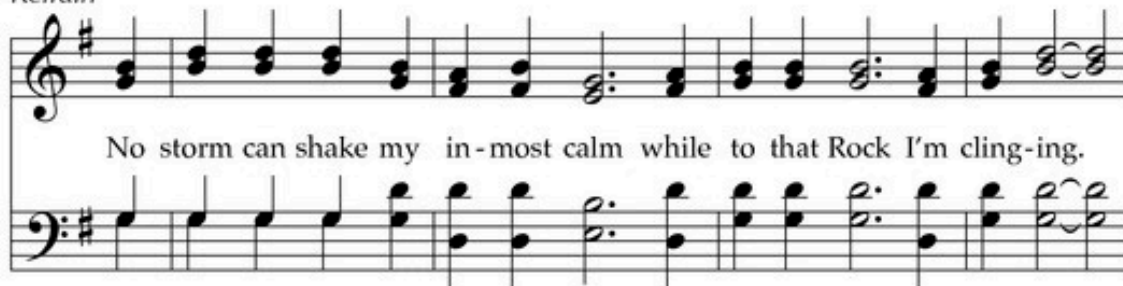


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.